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R I V E R B L Y T H
P O R T H E A L T H A U T H O R I T Y

A N N U A L R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R
O F H E A L T H .

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A.G.NEWELL, M.D., C.M., LM., D.P.H.

P u b l i c H e a l t h D e p a r t m e n t ,
W e l l i n g t o n H o u s e ,
B L Y T H .
N o r t h u m b e r l a n d .



MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Chairman
Vice Chairman

- Alderman H. Donnachie.
- Councillor S. Kidd.

Appointed by the Blyth Borough Council.

Alderman H. Donnachie.
Councillor A. Purves,
Alderman F. Rafferty.
Alderman R. Walker.
Alderman A. Walton.

Councillor J.R. Curry.
Councillor J.W. Heatley.
Councillor F. Ridley.
Councillor R. Turnbull.

Appointed by the Bedlingtonshire Urban
District Council.

Councillor C.S. Kidd.
" W. Mather.
" W.C. Ward.

OFFICERS AND STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

A.G. Newell M.D. C.M. L.M. D.P.H.

..... Wellington Hs.
Blyth.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

W.I. GORDON M.A. M.B. Ch.B.

..... Waterloo Rd.
Blyth.

Sanitary Inspector and Executive
Officer under Rat and Mice
(Destruction) Act, 1919.

John Dilks M.S.I.A.

Rat Catcher.

A.F. Chapman.

Clerk.

A. Teasdale.

..... 6, Blagdon Str.
Blyth.

Clerk to the Authority.

J. Leigh Turner, Esq.,

..... "Dinsdale House"
Blyth.

Telegraphic Address:-
Portelth Blyth.

* Part-time appointment.

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1943.

Wellington House,
BLYTH.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1943. For Security reasons, certain details are excluded, but members can have them if desired.

Examination of Crews:- The crews of coastwise, foreign and fishing vessels were examined. The crews were prominently British.

Infectious Diseases:- There were no cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Smallpox.

The following diseases were experienced among the crews:-

Influenza	-	9	cases
Veneral Diseases	-	11	"
Scabies	-	3	"
Other skin diseases	-	3	"
Total		<u>26</u>	"

A special Veneral Disease Clinic is now available.

Verminous Conditions:- In 26 vessels the crews quarters were found affected with bugs and cockroaches. In the majority of cases, fumigation with Hydrocyanide and Sulphur Dioxide gas was carried out. In the latter infestation insecticides were used. Officers are advised to use insecticides from time to time. Bedding and clothing where necessary are disinfected by the Borough's Health Department.

Sanitary and Structural defects attended, amounted to a total of 94.

Rat Destruction on Vessels:-

Sulphur Dioxide fumigations	-	2
Dead rats recovered	-	28
Fumigation	-	4
Dead rats recovered	-	35
There was no trapping or poisoning by baits.		
Deratisation certificates given	-	6
Exemption	"	8
Other	"	14

Rat Destruction.

- A. On vessels - total destroyed - 120 and all were examined. No Plague.
- B. Docks, Warehouses etc. total destroyed - 20 and all were examined. No Plague.
 - (a) all rats on vessels were Black rats.
 - (b) " " in docks, etc. were Brown rats.
- C. Poison Baits in Docks etc. 730.



Infestation Order 1943. An inspection of the Railway Property adjoining the Port was undertaken, and reported on.

Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933. The Regulations provide that before the arrival of vessels the Port Authority is notified regarding infectious diseases etc. through the G.P.O.

Civil Defence Services: Reciprocal arrangements exist. The Port Sanitary Inspector and the Food Decontamination Officer of the Borough work co-jointly, under the personal direction of the Medical Officer of Health, regarding the decontamination of food on vessels. No food stuffs are imported through this Port.

Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1915. There has been no contravention of the Regulations during this year.

Blackout Measures and Blocking up of Ventilators. The ventilation of Ships crews is never excessive, and these war measures are not good for the health of the crews, and it is worsened by overcrowding. It should be possible for all these measures to be done away with after the crew are in bed and no lights allowed in the quarters beyond torches.

SMALLPOX.

You have no Hospital. Cases occurring among seamen will have to be taken to the Infectious Disease Hospital at The Grange, Shiremoor, where there are 20 to 30 beds available. If such cases occur all contacts will be detained and vaccinated.

There have been several contacts diffused through the country from an undiagnosed case in Middlesex. A 52 year old patient who had only primary Vaccination in infancy, died from a severe attack and he was in the next ward to that in which the previous case of Smallpox was admitted into.

I have the honour, to remain,
Sincerely,
Your Obedient Servant,

A.G. NEWELL.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

TO: The Chairman and Members,
River Blyth Port Health Authority.

